

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 226361

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO; MEETING ON OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND
EUROPEAN REGIONAL ISSUE WITH COUNSELOR OF ISRAELI EMBASSY

REFS: A) TEL AVIV 5733; B) PARIS 23017, 23481

1. IO DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY TOUSSAINT MET SEPTEMBER 9
WITH EYTAN BENTSUR, COUNSELOR OF THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN
WASHINGTON, TO DISCUSS PROPOSED VISIT OF UNESCO REPRESENTA-
TIVES TO GATHER INFORMATION ON EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL
INSTITUTIONS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

2. WE STRESSED TO BENTSUR THAT U. S. AND ISRAEL HAVE MUTUAL
INTEREST IN MAKING CERTAIN THAT DEBATE ON THIS ISSUE AT
19TH UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE DOES NOT RESULT IN A
POLITICAL ATTACK ON ISRAEL, AND EXPRESSED OUR SATISFACTION
THAT GOI AND DIRECTOR GENERAL APPEARED TO HAVE AGREED IN
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PRINCIPLE ON THE GUIDELINES FOR THE VISIT.

3. WE POINTED OUT TO BENTSUR THAT IT WOULD STRENGTHEN THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S HAND CONSIDERABLY IF THE TEAM COULD BE IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES WHEN THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OPENED (OCTOBER 26), OR COULD AT A MINIMUM BE IN ISRAEL DISCUSSING ARRANGEMENTS WITH GOI AT THAT TIME. THIS WOULD

ENABLE THE DIRECTOR GENERAL TO ASK THE CONFERENCE TO DELAY ACTION.

4. BENTSUR REVIEWED THE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY HOLIDAYS, WHICH BRING ABOUT A SLOWDOWN IN EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES, AND POSSIBLE CONFLICT WITH VISIT OF ILO TEAM BUT SAID HE WOULD RELAY OUR VIEWS TO GOI.

5. ALTHOUGH WE HAD NOT PLANNED TO BRING UP EUROPEAN REGIONAL ISSUE, BENTSUR VOLUNTEERED THAT EC 9 WAS MEETING ABOUT THAT TIME IN THE HAGUE AND WOULD DISCUSS THIS ISSUE. HE SAID THAT THE GOI HAD IT FROM SEVERAL SOURCES THAT THE EC 9 ARE WILLING TO SUPPORT ISRAEL'S REQUEST FOR ASSIGNMENT TO THE EUROPEAN REGION, AND HE SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO FRENCH AS BEING WILLING. ROBINSON

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